DEC 1ST 2024

The Gamma Gazette

4TH EDITION

THE FRATERNITY OF PHI GAMMA DELTA: GAMMA KAPPA CHAPTER

EXTRA LIFE

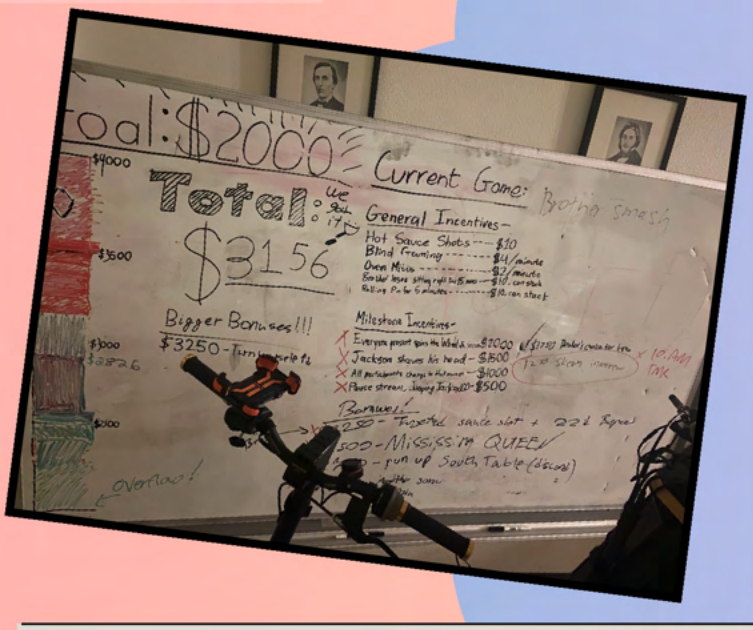
Extra Life is a program of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® that unites gamers worldwide to support children in need. Since its start in 2008, the program has raised over $120 million, funding vital healthcare services, pediatric medical equipment, and innovative research. This year, Fiji joined the effort, blending structured chaos and gaming endurance for a great cause.

Preparation was key. Snacks were secured, gaming setups arranged, and, of course, punishments were planned—because nothing motivates donations quite like a bit of creative suffering. The house transformed into an ant colony, with brothers swarming, ready to game, compete, and fundraise late into the night.

We started the stream with games such as Mario Kart, Overcooked, and splitscreen Halo. Donations soon dictated the fates of Ryan Freese and Evan Reeves, who were **sentenced to stand for hours—**an endurance test that became oddly entertaining for everyone except them... Funny how that works, My legs still feel it. The punishments escalated with the introduction of "Hot Sauce Shots," where brothers took swigs of increasingly fiery concoctions for donor amusement. Some might call it masochistic; **we at FIJI call it effective fundraising.**

As the hours passed, the games evolved. We moved into modded Minecraft, Lethal Company, and a rotating lineup of digital chaos. A few determined brothers refused to sleep, keeping the energy alive and ensuring the stream stayed active. I wanted to give special props to Luke Trotter, who—**despite being one of our newest members—managed tech support all night like a seasoned pro.**

At 8 AM, we hit the peak of competitive spirit with a 4v4 Valorant "Brother-off." Sleep deprivation didn't stop us from strategizing (or trash-talking). After a quick lunch break, the Delta Challenge, led by Paul McElligot and his jaw-dropping $700 contribution, allowed us all to finish strong, and gave us the motivation to keep going



While the night was filled with laughs, games, and questionable punishments, the real focus was raising money for children in need. The donations from friends, family, and supporters made every hot sauce gulp and standing punishment worthwhile. Extra Life has always been a wonderfull experience for brothers to bond over a great cause. We'll see you next year, with more games, more challenges, and probably more hot sauce. (and not the vinegar kind this time)

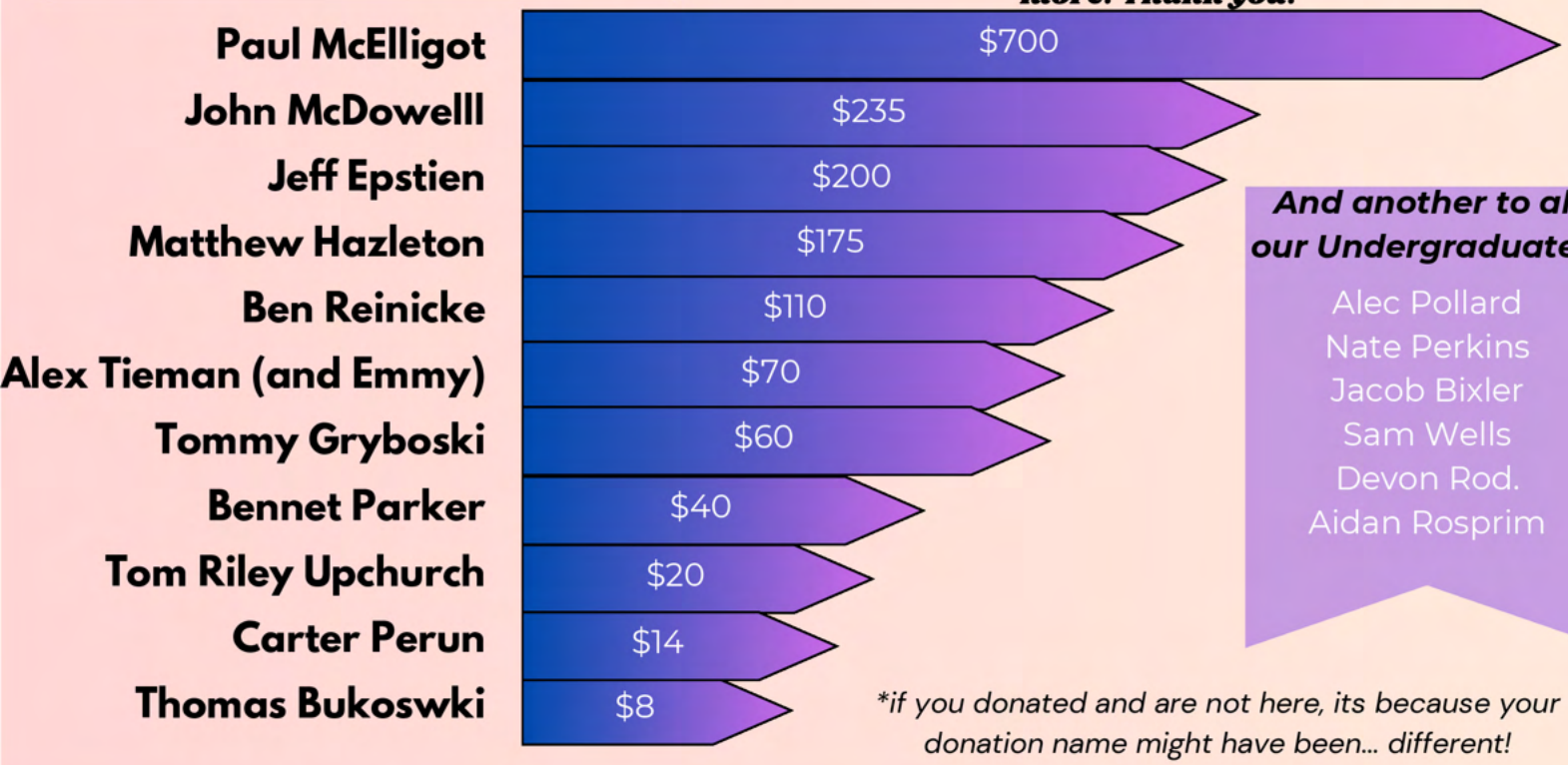
HTTPS://WWW.MINESFIJI.ORG/.
WWW.CSMFIJIGRADS.ORG

1803 WEST CAMPUS ROAD, GOLDEN CO 80401

SHOUTOUTS AND STATS

We were able to raise over $3,200 for the EL Foundation with the help and support of many of our friends, families, other donators and most importantly a large amount from our Grads! We hit every single goal and more! Thank you!

A HUGE thank you to the following Grads



And another to all our Undergraduates!

Alec Pollard
Nate Perkins
Jacob Bixler
Sam Wells
Devon Rod.
Aidan Rosprim

**if you donated and are not here, its because your donation name might have been... different!*

Bro Dates

An ambitious idea to strengthen the bond between Graduates and Undergraduates, and provide life and encouragment to our Undergraduate Brothers as they pursue excellence in their College Days

The Graduate Bro Dates initiative is an ambitious new Brotherhood event that will be put on its first iteration come Spring of 2025! Created with the help of 2024 Cabinet, several Graduate Brothers including Thorn Svendsen, Nick Kaiser, and Will Spaeth, and spearheaded by the Graduate Relations committee, the Graduate Bro Dates initiative aims to strengthen the internals of FIJI by connecting our Graduates with our Undergraduate brothers to get some quality bro time in, over lunch, Zoom, a cup of joe or whatever is good at the time!

The undergrads at Gamma Kappa wanted to introduce a way for Graduate Brothers to foster connections with and impart knowledge and wisdom on our current undergraduate brothers! We would like any and all Graduate Brothers who would be interested in volunteering to sign up for this oppurtunity through the QR Code to the right, or by using the link provided in the email that Thorn sent out from Ryan and Jackson! Overall, we want to build an opportunity to re-engage with your fraternity and allow you to help shape the future of Gamma Kappa at CSM. Allow us to learn from your wisdom and expertise. Share advice and provide guidance! The more brothers that contribute to this program, the stronger it will grow, and the Fraternity with it.

This program will begin January 9th: You can sign up any time, even after the program begins!

Join Our Discord!

Socials

With the dawn of a new semester, FIJI found itself being quite the center of attention with our new emphasis and social chair planning out a social with almost every single sorority!

Our most notable ones had to be the SK Tye Dye social, where we all gathered around to eat hot dogs and tye dye shirts, the Theta Halloween Cookie social where we all gathered in the kitchen to decorate cookies and chat during the spooky season of october, and finally the Pi Phi Thanksgiving: A time honored tradition where our very own graduates come by to help cook a wonderfull turkey and ham dinner for the brothers, while we share thanks with the fine ladies of Pi Phi.

Each member of FIJI had the wonderful oppurtunity to socalize and meet the wonderfull people of this campus, while getting to enjoy good food, laughs, and overall grow closer to each other as well at every event. We plan on continuing this trend and maybe even opening up to some bro-sials next semester with some of our neighbors!

Grad Spotlight: Paul McElligott

Epsilon (Spring 1989),
Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Public Affairs
Rush Chairman Historian,

This is Paul McElligot as an undergraduate at Mines in 1986, living in the old FIJI dorm floor, Randall 2. What led him to this point, one might ask? When he first set foot on campus, Paul didn't have any particular intention of joining a fraternity. That changed when he met the brothers of FIJI. The members from the classes of 1984 and 1985 were friendly, outgoing, and passionate about the success of their chapter. Their genuine desire to connect with Paul inspired him to join FIJI and become part of the fifth pledge class, the first to be officially named—Epsilon.

As an undergraduate, Paul took on leadership roles both within the chapter and the broader Mines community. He served as Rush Chairman, helping to grow the fraternity and welcome new brothers. He also served on the chapter's cabinet as a Historian, overseeing the education of new pledges. Beyond FIJI, he was President of the Mines Activity Council (MAC) and held significant roles in organizations like Blue Key, Tau Beta Pi, and The Mines Oredigger.

One of Paul's fondest undergraduate memories was transforming the backyard into a beach for a FIJI party. Despite the unexpected snowfall that night, the camaraderie of working together on this ambitious project and the party that followed were unforgettable highlights of his time at Mines

Being a FIJI profoundly shaped Paul's life. The support and encouragement of his brothers helped him not just survive at Mines but thrive, allowing him to be actively involved in major campus organizations..

His fraternity experience also equipped him with lifelong skills, such as the ability to connect with a broad range of people—skills that have been invaluable in his career. Even after graduation, Paul remained involved with FIJI, serving on the Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA) for both the Gamma Kappa Chapter at Mines and the Delta Xi Chapter at the University of California. He has also mentored Mines undergraduates, offering advice and guidance to new members of the fraternity. Professionally, Paul has enjoyed a successful 35-year career with ConocoPhillips as a Facilities EPFC Project Manager (Engineering, Procurement, Fabrication, and Construction). He is currently managing the Willow Project, a $7.5 billion oil and gas infrastructure initiative on Alaska's North Slope.

Paul McElligot offshore in the British North sea

Grad Spotlight: Alex Tieman

Xi Triton (Spring 2014), Chancellor's Clan (Schmuck Brigade)
B.S. CompSci 2018, M.S. ETM 2020
Philanthropy Chair, Gamma Kappa Pig Dinner Chair, DU Purple Legionnaire

Alex Tieman was born in Los Angeles before moving to Colorado Springs at the age of one. By the time he arrived at the Colorado School of Mines in 2013, Alex was a self-described extroverted band kid searching for his place in the world. He thrived on camaraderie and longed for a community that could challenge him to grow and bring out his best self. That opportunity arrived when two influential figures—his best friend, Jaydee, and his "big brother," Ian—encouraged him to attend spring rush at FIJI. He quickly found his family at home with the brothers of Gamma Kappa, and found what he was looking for in out fraternity, and as he says "Much More."

Through Phi Gamma Delta, Alex gained a support system that became integral to his personal, academic, and professional life. Although Alex humorously recalls being the chapter clown and the butt of many jokes, his love for the fraternity and his brothers was never in doubt, much less his integral roles and fierce loyalty that he served and displayed to the chapter. It was this love and dedication that defined his journey in Phi Gamma Delta. His dedication to the chapter is well known as he tirelessly worked to improve the lives of his brothers at Phi Gam whenever he had the chance to. Between the memories, good, funny, all else equal, Alex stayed with FIJI through the duration of his time here at Mines, which he credits to being a massive help with getting through Mines.

Over the years, Alex's contributions to the fraternity have been significant and known, and many persit today. He spearheaded the chapter's involvement in Extra Life, a charitable initiative for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, and hosted some of its most successful years.

He played a pivotal role in bringing Kappa Alpha Theta, Phi Gamma Delta's sister sorority, to campus. His leadership extended to revitalizing recruitment efforts, ensuring the fraternity's continued growth and vibrancy. For his dedication, Alex was honored with the Kirk Lindahl Award, a testament to his unwavering commitment to his chapter and its values.

Now engaged to his fiancée, Emmy—a proud member of said Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, Alex commented with me on how Phi Gamma Delta shaped him and helped his future develop. Currently serving as DU Purple Legionnaire with the chapter's impending chartering in March, Alex embodies the fraternity's mission of lifelong commitment. Professionally, he thrives as a Commercial Sales Engineer at Fivetran, where his extroversion and technical acumen blend seamlessly. He credits the fraternity with refining his social grace, intuition, and confidence, all of which have been crucial to his success as an adult.

Looking ahead, Alex envisions a long-term connection with Phi Gamma Delta, both locally and potentially at a higher level. His journey from a young man seeking his place in the world to a leader, mentor, and accomplished professional serves as a testament to the transformative power of brotherhood.

You can find Alex at alext4231@gmail.com, or by stopping by Gamma Kappa or DU Fiji Chapter!

Grad Spotlight: Nick Kaiser

Phi *Triton Bastard*
B.S. CompSci 2020 Spring.
House Manager, Treasurer, Current PL for Gamma Kappa

Nick's professional and personal growth was shaped in part by his time in Fiji, which he joined at the urging of his Weaver Hall suite-mates, Justice and Richard. Initially hesitant, Nick quickly found the chapter to be a supportive environment that fostered meaningful friendships and provided practical leadership experience.
The leadership skills Nick developed during his time in Fiji have translated directly into his professional life. He has applied these tools to navigate challenges and achieve significant progress in his career as a Software Engineer at BAE Systems. In this role, Nick develops software solutions for the movement, processing, and display of RF systems, such as radar and GPS, used on military platforms. His work requires a strong technical foundation and a focus on precision and efficiency.

Nick currently resides in Thornton, Colorado, where he purchased a home in October. His career trajectory reflects his dedication to applying both technical expertise and leadership acumen to drive impactful results in a demanding field.

Boo Bash

Boo Bash is an annual event hosted by Colorado School of Mines, bringing the spirit of Halloween to the community of children with diabetes. Where many brothers come together to bring the event to life. Hosted by the Childrens Diabetes Foundation,the event is filled with food, drinks, and laughter, creating a welcoming space for families and community members. Each participant receives a pumpkin to carve, adding a creative and personal touch to their Halloween experience. To keep the excitement alive, brothers and volunteers dress in costumes and host a variety of games for attendees for all the children to play and earn cute rewards for them to take home, since traditional candy is not quite right for an event such as this. Popular activities include ping pong ball challenges, Hot Wheels racing, and spirited rounds of Connect 4, along with marble games, catch or other fun activities. Overall, its really all for the kids, and its quite interesting to see how the pumpkin carving and costume contest always go. When the festivities come to a close, the leftover pumpkins are taken by the brothers, ensuring nothing goes to waste and keeping the Halloween spirit alive back at the house. By fostering joy and togetherness, this event has become a beloved tradition for brothers and community members alike.

Asking Around- Brody M

Similar to the last Grad Gazette, I interviewed 3 brothers, asking them about their reasons for joining, their favorite parts of Fiji, and their favorite event. For this round of interviews, I chose to speak with Evan Reeves, our new RecSec, Juanmanuel Barraza, and one of our new members, Luke Trotter.

Evan Reeves loves all parts of Fiji, but his favorite part is the community we have. It makes him feel at home, sort of like a second family. He loves Extra life, as raising money as a community for those in need was fun for him; he joined this fraternity for the service events and to step out of his comfort zone and make new friends.

Juanmanuel Barraza is a relatively new member, being of the class that joined spring of 24. His favorite part of the fraternity is the house, as it is a nice place to relax and see familiar faces. His favorite event was the brotherhood MND we hosted a while back, as it felt like a celebration of the fraternity. This is also the reason he joined, as the community is the best part of Fiji.

Finally, **Luke Trotter** is the newest member I interviewed. Since joining this semester, he soon realized that his favorite part of Fiji is the fellowship; having a group of friends able to coach him through life here at Mines is the best thing he could have asked for. Similarly, his favorite event was Pi Phi Thanksgiving, as the food was excellent, and he got to meet many grads and help out with everything there. Finally, his reason for joining was free root beer. And having a group of friends that build each other up.

Christmas Party

FIJI threw our annual White Elephant Christmas festival during Dead Day before our exams started around. Starting with cheery food and drinks, hot cocoa and karaoke, we transitioned to a massive brotherhood white elephant. Some of the more notable presents included two hundred pounds of reinforced powdered concrete, two very interesting shirt designs, “The Creature”, bluetooth glasses, and a massive book of Gravity Falls lore.
We cooked, drank cocoa, celebrated and sang for the entire night. The house is looking also quite festive these days on a side note!

Arcade Sidequest- Brody M

Mid-November, a side quest to Round One Arcade at the Colorado Mills took place. It consisted of me, Roman Burnside, Stroh, Xavier, Stephen Grey, and Zito. This impromptu brotherhood event was done alongside the Anime Club, as enough Fiji members decided to tag along with them for fun. Despite not being planned in advance, the energy and excitement of the evening were palpable. When we arrived, we initially split into smaller groups. A couple of us gravitated toward the rhythm game section, drawn by the flashing lights and catchy music, while others headed straight to the ticket section to test their skill on somewhat-reliable machines.
Throughout the night, we played a variety of games, notably a few rounds of “friendly” drift-filled racing matches. Toward the end, we all regrouped at a row of claw machines. Zito, with his years of experience, demonstrated a unique trick—likely not approved by the arcade. He spun the claw to hook the display along the back and skillfully pulled down plushies, often more than one at a time. By the end of the night, we had 6 plushies, about 10 candy necklaces, and other prizes that I lost track of; but the greatest prize was the time spent with my brothers, creating memories we’ll treasure.

THE GRAND RETURN OF THE FABLED MND

Monthly Night Dinner, or MND, is more than just a meal—it's a cornerstone of the brotherhood at Phi Gamma Delta, Colorado School of Mines. Once a month, brothers come together to share stories, strengthen bonds, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes our fraternity unique. For this event has been exclusively bright back for graduate and undergraduate brothers only.

MND is as much about the process as it is about the gathering. Brothers collaborate to prepare a meal for the chapter, combining teamwork and creativity in the kitchen. Each dinner becomes a shared experience, filled with laughter, teamwork, and the satisfaction of accomplishing something together.

One recent MND showcased this spirit of collaboration and dedication. Brothers worked diligently to prepare some of the best-seasoned meat I have ever tasted to create a batch of loaded nachos for the brothers to enjoy. The nachos quickly disappeared when the food hit the table as everyone settled into the warmth of good company and great stories.

MND reminds us that it's not just about the food but about fostering the connections that make Phi Gamma Delta a lifelong brotherhood. Whether it's through the shared work of cooking or the moments spent around the table, Monthly Night Dinners continue to bring us closer together.

A Brief Overview of the Residences of the Gamma Kappa Chapter

The Gamma Kappa Chapter has had the joy to experience a multitude of houses in our time here at the Colorado School of Mines. We have had two official houses with a third pseudo-official satellite house and a plethora of minor offshoots from our main housing forays. Our original house situated at 1112 18th Str. colloquially known as Tre-one deuce. The house was not built for our chapter but was instead hijacked from the rugby team and acted as our main place of residence for a great many years from 1985 until around 2001. In this time, the Gamma Kappa chapter had wonderful expansion and quickly had more members than the small house could hold so other housing options were pursued. The second floor of Randall hall was specifically reserved for around 25 FIJI's one year in conjuction with the Pi Phi's reserving had the second floor of Bradford allowing for friendly day-to-day and window-to-window interactions. Another house was taken where the golf course sits today and would be known as the FIJI Annex. This acted as a satellite house for the chapter and granted many more members the ability to live closely with their brothers. Of course, multiple brothers would go on to rent apartments and other houses and consider them to be the homes of the GK Phi Gams, however, none of them are officially recognized. These branching paths would eventually lead to a new plan by the school to introduce more dorms for freshman. No matter, as long as they aren't where our house is... And so Maple Hall was built where 1112 resided and was eventually destroyed. The school then sought a contract with the chapter, unheard of in the state of Colorado: an offer to build our new house and own it. This had not been done before and required laws to be changed to allow the school to own our house (this would stand as the new template for the sorority houses as well). 1803 W. Campus Rd., the current house of the GK chapter was newly built and quickly filled to a new, significantly higher capacity of 23 members. The chapter would now be able to be closer with an average of half or more of the active undergrad. members able to live in house. The house still stands as it did after the initial construction with minor adjustments such as the addition of a light in the shape of a diamond adorned by a white star. The letters also followed an evolution throughout the years starting as hand-carved wooden letters which were consequently broken and repaired a great many times until eventually being painted glossy black and kept in storage. More wooden letters were made to replace them and were retired with 1112. Finally, a pair of black metal letters were made for 1803 and replaced by a larger, stainless steel pair a few years later. This concludes the (brief) overview of the houses that Gamma Kappa's have resided in and their subsequent history

Written by: Sam Wells: Historian.

FIJI BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

Movie Nights

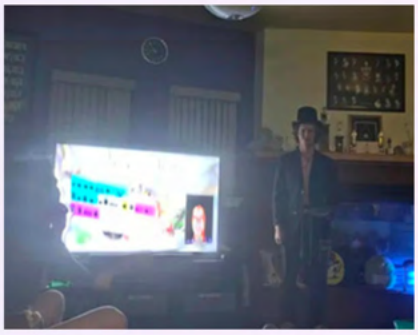
An old tradition has been brought back! Renamed **Fiji Friday Movie Nights,** undergraduates populated a GIANT wheel at the start of the semester with every movie they could think of. Every friday, following a giant Dollar Tree run, FIJIs bunker down in the main Living Room to relax after the average week here at Mines. We also have taken it upon ourselves to raid Brown Hall to watch em on the big screens in there, and follow it up with a good ol fashioned game of Sardines

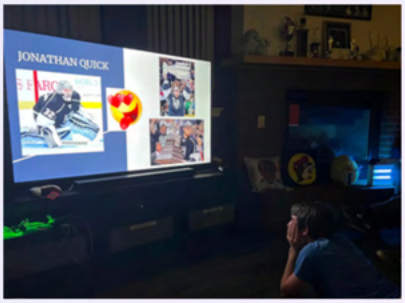
Top Golf

We had about 12 brothers head over to Top Golf for a fun friday night! Over 2 bays, we competed in various Top Golf games while enjoying the half off deals from the members of Top Golf who came with us. A couple of "golf adept" brothers had a ton of fun by sending the balls in a straight line to the moon!

Presentation Night

We held our first FIJI presentation night a while ago! Brothers were challenged with creating a presentation on literally anything. We spent the night being informed on how to walk the streets of Golden at 3 AM, ranking the various characters of video games, or even getting a lesson on the entire lore of one.





The winners were well recieved with Jiah for 5th, Bob and Luke for 4th (tie), Roman with his 3 way presentation, Ryan for his "angry birds tier list" and Alex Z for his total explanation on Lobotomy Corporation. We plan on having one more as a Duo's Presentation night!

Disc Golf

We had a healthy amount of brothers attend a Disc Golf event a month or two ago! Brothers went out to Wondervu Disc Golf for lunch and a few hours of relaxation during midterms week!

GRADUATING FIJIS

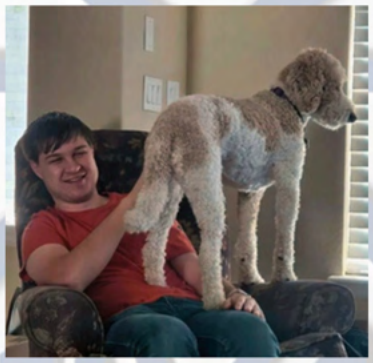
Christian Talbert

Chemical Enginner: Biological Focus

"Graduation is not the end, but the beginning of a new journey. Embrace the unknown with courage, for it is through challenges that we discover our true strength and purpose."

Kyle Collins

Computer Science, minor with McBride



“The world is big and wide and terrifying and bright. And you’re never going to figure it all out. All you can do is take one foot, put it in front of the other, and keep going.”

If you are interested with connecting with one or more of these exceptional scholars please reach out to rfreese@mines.edu for more information or to request contact information. Lets celebrate the achievements of our brothers together!

Moving Forward

I started my position off as Grad Relations chair with one goal in mind, Inform and reconnect. Between seeing Grads come by for recruitment, events around the house, participation and extra life and above all else tradition, I am so happy and proud to be a FIJI. The Grad Relations Chair will be moving on to Jackson Neal with time and effort while I Study Aboad at Canterbury NZ next semester. The launch of the Bro Dates initiative will still be closely watched as we once again jump into the unknown to attempt to make something great! I have loved the chance to serve on this chair, and I hope you all have enjoyed reading these gazettes as much as me and my team have enjoyed writing them! This will likely be the last gazette that I directly lead in writing (I will still do what I can of course) so above all else.

Thank you all, Thank you Grads. You have proven we are not for College Days ALONE!

Perge!
Ryan Freese
Grad Relations Chair

Gamma Gladiator

Roman Burnside- Kappa Tetarteron : Lazarus

Hey Brothers!

We are back with our last Gamma Gladiator of the year!

Its a pleasure and an honor to highlight our brotherhood chair Roman Burnside!

Self Described "Just a kid from Colorado Springs trying to find a way to make a difference in this world." Roman is a huge nerd about a variety of things, and loves my brothers in Fiji. He chose Fiji because it was a place where he genuinely felt comfortable talking to people and being myself.

Roman is a Mech-E with a focus on aerospace and an electrical minor because he wants to go into the aerospace industry or the theme park engineering industry. He plans to focus on internships and look for a job that he loves, not all just for the pay.
Roman is the guy for all events! Disc golf, top golf, Christmas party, etc. He always tries to emphasize that brothers should be close with one another and that we all share the same problems and can help each other with anything.

Well done Roman!

The Zito Archive

Hello all,

My name is Alex Zito, and as of this cycle I have been elected as the chapter president.
For a little bit of myself, coming from Dallas, Texas. I am a senior in Mechanical Engineering with a track in Automation and Controls. My main passion is with robotics and automation as that is the field I want to go into after graduation. A few things I usually do in my down time is either watching shows, playing games, or just generally hanging out. As for my plans while in presidency, I want to put focus into our committees and make sure they have what they need to perform to the best they can. I want to be working closely with our committees as best as I can to help and provide guidance for newer chairs. I also want to build connections with organizations and clubs on campus to strengthen our relations with campus as a whole. I'll be rather busy this winter break since that's when I will be creating most of the plans for achieving the goals as president I have set for myself. As for the rest, I wish for everyone to have a merry Christmas!

Pergé!
Alex Zito President

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Juanmanuel Barraza- Co Editor
Brody Mittelstadt- Writer
Phi Gamma Delta- Gamma Kappa Chapter
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SCRAPBOOK

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